

San Leandro Computer Club

Journal

November, 1992

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 1992



The meeting was called to order by none other than Vice President Robbie Bridges. (So all of you that claimed there was no such person will have to start eating your hats) The other Officers? Fowler and Moran were present and Woolley, he was off gathering wool someplace.

Latest editions of the Atari User were passed out and the loot for the raffle was reviewed.

It seems that our Resident Dirty Ole Man (DOM) was also off gathering wool so we were privileged to have some other unknown and partially incompetent demonstrate what is probably a good 8 Bit disk of the month. Included on the disk are several games, poker, Floyd the Droid and slave a text adventure. Also a couple of programs for young kids, (Woolley probably enjoys them) one a coin counting game and the other titled Noisy, about the noisy giant, an animated game.

There was some discussion about the new ATARI CLASSIC magazine which is about to start publishing in an attempt to rally support for the 8 Bit groups around the country. Copies of the first issue will be sent to all those who replied to a recent questionnaire on 8 Bits.

ATARI EXPO 92 and why it's cancellation was again kicked around and generally discussed. The importance of proper notice of cancellation was brought out.

During a short break the wanta-be head crook, Jim Hood, showed his qualifications by selling the raffle tickets, drawing the raffle winners and giving the first two prizes to his son, Glenn Fowler. Not much doubt he qualifies.

Vice President Robbie gave a demonstration of both the Bob Term modem program and the Key System BBS to conclude the evening. Robbie's new one gigahertz modem will no doubt set new standards for many years to come.

Being no further business monkey or otherwise the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Jim Moran - Secretary

I would like to give a BIG hand to Robbie, who got the whole meeting dumped on him at the last minute..... Sounds like he did a great job. [he may have to do it again this month] REW

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OUR 8-BIT DISKS

by Bob Schlar SLCC 8-bit Software Chairman

SLCC - October 1992

Some General Comments:

This month's disk uses MYDOS with the newest update of our FULmenu (condensed to 34 sectors by eliminating the Quit, Enter, & Load functions). For MYDOS DOCs- see Disk #8004.

Both DOC files on this disk are in Word Processor format (i.e.- CRs at paragraph ends, only). The VTEX.TXT file has been formatted for printout in 75 columns, but it's readable with the Menu's "T" function. WORDFUN's Help file is in BASIC.

D.O.M. Summary

This disk has fourteen user programs:- three Games, five gRaphics (Demos), five UTILities, and one TUTORial (& gRaphics DEMO) on use of the XE memory banks.

Contents - Disk #1010

FRONT:-

SLAVE2- sequel to "SLAVE" (a Text Adv.) on disk #1009.

TESSELAT- 5 programs (see below) of gRaphics (DEMOS?) and DOC.

VTEX- Text Reader UTILITY with many options, and *.TXT (DOC).

XEBANKS- TUTORial on using 130XE memory banks from BASIC.

* MYDOS + FULmenu(MYDOS) update.

BACK:-

BAS2BIN- BIN. load BASIC files.

BOOTDIR- a "no sectors" DIR.

COMDOS- command driven DUP.

CRYPTO- cryptogram sol'n. helper.

HVYMETAL- Game- like Q*BERT.

WORDFUN- super Wheel Of Fortune.

Program Details

BAS2BIN.OBJ- a M/L UTILITY by Matthew Arrington is from ANALOG #67 (12/88). It converts a saved BASIC or BASIC XL file into a binary load file; which can be loaded from DOS or a quick menu or as an AUTORUN.SYS. You can also control the RESET and BREAK keys and add a load title. To use, load it from DOS and follow the prompts- it's almost self explanatory.

BOOTDIR.BAS- is a UTILITY which writes a disk directory Reader (not a menu!) that takes no space on your disk,- it's in sector #3! It has instructions for installation and for use in searching several disks. Bill Bodenstein published it in ANALOG #62.

COMDOS.OBJ- is a command driven alternate DUP, compatible with Atari DOS 2.0 & 2.5 (& MYDOS with the noted exceptions); and the

130XE ramdisk. Copy it to another disk (with DOS only) and rename it DUP.SYS. When you go to DOS the title will appear with a prompt to enter a command. To see the command list type HELP. When using commands, be careful of syntax;- especially extra spaces (the HELP list indicates the proper syntax). The commands are: LOCK; UNLOCK; DELETE; RENAME; BSAVE (may not work with MYDOS); BLOAD (does not work with MYDOS); COPY (with variations); DUP (file);BOOT FILENAMEEXT (Autoruns BASIC file); ?hxn (where hxn= a 4 digit Hex No.); DIRn; FORMATn; WDOsn (write DOS); WMEMn (MEM.SAV); REBOOT; GO addr; BASIC; CLICK (key toggle); STATUS (see article for details); and HELP. This M/L program by Robert Berry was published in ANALOG #61 (6/88).

CRYPTO.OBJ- is a M/L UTILITY to help solve cryptograms without paper, pencils, and (especially) ERASERS! The program includes full on-screen prompts and command summaries which make it as easy to use as possible. If you want to see the original article, it's in ANALOG #62 (7/88);- I found it quite confusing! Kevin Peck is the programmer.

HVYMETAL.COM- is a Binary load Game which will remind you of Q*BERT. The rules of play and objectives are reasonably obvious. It was on the MACAM (Montreal Club) newsletter disk for 3/92; and AIM (6/92). Paul Lay (of London, U.K.) is the programmer.

SLAVE2.BAS- (or Nimral's Grace) by Clayton Walnum, from ANALOG #66 (11/88), is a sequel to last month's Text Adventure. It has a SAVE GAME and a LOAD GAME command. The articles have playing hints, and background.

TESSELAT- group name for 5 small programs from two articles called "The Magic of Tessellations" by Allen Moose and Marion Lorenz (ANALOG #61 & 62). See TESSELAT.DOC.

VTEX.COM- is a Text reader UTILITY, from AIM of June 1992, by Larry Richardson. It's features are explained in VTEX.TXT.

WORDFUN(BAS)- is another, and better, version of Wheel of Fortune than the Game FORTUNE.BAS, which is on SLCC disk #0810. To play it, RUN the *HELP.BAS file from BASIC;- it has clear and complete instructions for playing and for easy adding of your own puzzles. After you have read *HELP.BAS once, you may wish to load the file WORDFUN right from BASIC. It comes with WORDFONT and ten data files of puzzle words and phrases. Two to four can play, using either Joystick or Keyboard. Each player's turn is timed, to keep the game moving along. The programmer is Chet Walters and the game is from ANTIC.

XEBANKS.BAS- is a TUTORial (& gR DEMO) by David Schofield, from ANALOG #62 (7/88);- on the use of XE Banks from BASIC. The program shows how you can Load 8 gRaphics screens (of 62 sectors each) into memory and retrieve them, instantly, on command, from BASIC. The article describes other uses for this technique.

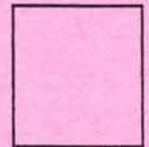
Well, this isn't much of a Journal this month - even worse than October's. It seems that we only have two 'volunteers' to put the newsletter together and both of them got real busy at the last minute. What we need are more bodies to fall back on! This would require a couple of our members to become involved in the creation and publication of the Journal. They, in turn, could use the existing staff as backup when they need to. Otherwise, the whole thing falls apart as it has in the last few months. Looking thru the Journals of a few years ago, we have lost a lot of our former style and content. Let's put it back, OK? The fabric of the Club is best demonstrated to the outside world by the quality of our newsletter. I'd hate to see it just melt away.

You don't need a TT to do this, you know. You don't even need an ST, although anyone interested in being editor can use the Club mega2. Bob Scholar does the DOM every month on an 8-bit using Daisy-Dot III. It really isn't a contest to see who looks the best, it is a medium that we use to communicate to others. At the moment, we aren't communicating what we want to hear - it's up to the membership to do something about it.

For the meeting: it will be in it's regular, old room. The Library has returned it to us after asking us to move. I'll have one copy of Atari Classic for passing around just so those who may not be scheduled to get the first issue can see what they're going to miss.

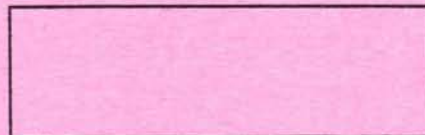
Yore prez....

San Leandro Computer Club
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General Meeting
November 3, 1992

ST SIG
November 9, 1992



at the San Leandro
Community Library
300 Estudillo Avenue